

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP61-00391R000100010041-4

Special Assistant to AD/HR

8 May 1958

Chief, Geographic Research

GRA Comments on the Draft Program of the Sixth Arctic Indoctrination Course

REFERENCE: Your request for comments on Subject draft

1. The Draft Program of the Sixth Arctic Indoctrination Course has been reviewed by GRA participants in previous courses, as well as others in the Area. In general, the actual content and organization is excellent, and it is believed that the Course offers as thorough an orientation as is possible in the time allotted. Those who had attended the early courses were quite enthusiastic over the several improvements in the program over the years, e.g., the overnight bivouac, and the trips to other installations in the Arctic.

2. Specific proposals for improvement of the course suggested by those who attended previous courses are as follows:

a. It is felt that the proportion of time to be spent in Ottawa (8 of the 16 days) is too long. As much time as possible should be spent "in the field" to give the student an appreciation or "feel" of the barrenness and tremendous expanse of the northlands which cannot be acquired in a classroom.

b. Some free time should be allotted at Churchill for student conferences with their counterparts. For example, a student interested in Arctic airfield operations could spend a half-day at the airport; a meteorologist could consult with the staff of the weather station, etc.

c. The return trip from Churchill to Ottawa should be modified by either (1) making arrangements for an overnight stop at Hall Lake or Resolute, or (2) omitting Resolute. Either of these alternatives would permit repeating the 1958 flight over the eastern section of the DEW line down to Frobisher, which would also provide the students with an excellent view of mountainous Arctic terrain. An overnight stop at Resolute would also allow time for a brief visit to the meteorological, ionospheric, and seismic stations and the Eskimo village.

F: TRAINING-4

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP61-00391R000100010041-4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP61-00391R000100010041-4

**SUBJECT: GRA Comments on the Draft Program of the Sixth Arctic
Indoctrination Course**

d. If safety and fuel economy permit, the aircraft transporting the party should descend to a flight altitude of perhaps one thousand feet at appropriate points during the flight to allow the students a more intimate examination of the various types of Arctic terrain.

e. The curriculum might be expanded to include a consideration of the summer environment of the Arctic. Even though conventional operations may not be possible in the summer, the students should be made aware of the very different conditions that prevail in that season.

f. Where it is possible and appropriate, similarities and dissimilarities of Soviet and Canadian Arctic doctrine should be brought to the students' attention.

g. Although the importance of transportation to Arctic operations is recognized, it is questioned whether the disproportionately large number of hours allocated to this one subject is really necessary.

3. The following comments are from personnel who have not attended the Arctic course, and may therefore show a lack of knowledge of the substantive content of some of the sections of the course. If the following items are not already covered, they are certainly worthy of mention to [REDACTED] as appropriate subjects to be added:

a. Air-sea rescue operations and survival problems.

b. Problems of surveying and mapping, particularly with respect to future requirements for the positioning of missile launch sites.

c. Potential and problems of the use of the polar ice pack for military purposes.

4. The proposed allocation of vacancies appears to be appropriate.

Distribution:

O&I - Addressee

1 - A/Ch/D/GG

2 - Ch/G

ORR:Ch/G:JAB:jmc/535(8 May 1958)

25X1A9a [REDACTED]

Sanitized - Approved For Release ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CIA-RDP61-00391R000100010041-4